TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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- Representative Selection, Lower Rio Grande Valley
- Uniform Building Codes Could Help Architects Save $1000 Per House

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The units, fabricated and erected by Flour City, create a curtain wall of both utility and beauty. Reversible windows provide an efficient method of washing glass from the interior, being open for only an instant when reversing the sash. Contributing to the efficiency of the wall are the insulated spandrels whose golden-hued metallic surfaces lend an air of elegance to this important addition to the industrial landscape.

PHOTO'S BY: BIG CEDAR STUDIOS

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Two of the strangest farms in America "grow" concrete in northern Illinois and central Georgia. They are the Portland Cement Association experimental farms, where scientists study the effects of weathering on concrete in northern and southern climates.

"Growing" here are better pavements for defense highways, stronger runways to resist the impact of huge commercial and military planes and the terrific heat of jets, walls with greater resistance to the elements for factories, schools, hospitals, homes, hangars, warehouses, stores and public buildings.

"Plantings" made on farms, starting in 1940, consist of rows of concrete slabs, posts and boxes which simulate pavements, structural columns and walls. Specimens contain different proportions and combinations of materials used in making concrete.

Research like this is a continuing and expanding activity of the Portland Cement Association. Out of this research comes technical information on the best concrete mixtures and the best construction practices for building structures exposed to all conditions of service and weather.

Such information is made public immediately and freely through the Association's field engineering service and its educational and promotional program which is made possible by the voluntary financial support of its 68 member companies.

Thus the knowledge gained in the laboratory and in field tests can be used quickly by architects, engineers and contractors in designing and building more durable and ***lower-annual-cost*** facilities needed for our general economy and the defense program.

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Construction Industry Leads Strong Upturn

America is apparently emerging from another recession under the strong leadership of the construction industry.

A current report from F. W. Dodge shows that overall U.S. construction contracts for June, 1958 reached the total of $3,800,000,000, the highest ever reported for any one month. Although an analysis of this report shows considerable unevenness among the major construction categories and the non-recurring effect of several tremendous heavy engineering contracts, there is unmistakable evidence that the corner has been turned under the impetus of new building.

Texas also had an excellent month in June, with an overall report of $235,000,000 which has been followed by fine reports since from many areas of the state. Several major cities here are moving strongly ahead in virtually every building category. The architects of Texas and the nation are as usual playing a major role in all this activity, and at the same time beginning to give some beginning indications of what to expect in 1959 and beyond through preliminary work on future projects.

With all these encouraging signs, it is distressing to note how quickly Washington is beginning to manipulate the economy again through credit controls. The discount rate in most Federal Reserve Districts is rising; other measures are reportedly under consideration. Everyone recognizes the need for various sound controls aimed at curbing inflation. But is there sufficient threat as yet to run the risk of killing off a strong recovery movement still in its inception? The government should study very closely the degree of controls applied at this time, or face a risk more serious than inflation — that of deflation and recurring recession.

The President's Letter

By
Reginald H. Roberts
President, Texas Society of Architects

As this issue goes to press, it is predicted that the second Democratic primary will attract less than 250,000 Texans to their ballot boxes. This sharply-reduced total, even for an election with a minimum of statewide contests, is most alarming. It emphasizes the fact that Texans and indeed citizens everywhere must be reminded constantly of the importance of exercising their franchise in every election. The tragic results of failing to vote cannot be stressed too strongly, and yet it is often the citizen who failed in this critical duty who complains the loudest about public officials placed in office through his negligence.

Because of our strong traditions of individual freedom, it is doubtful that this country will ever enact or enforce laws making it illegal not to vote. Sometimes, however, it appears that even such a drastic course of action might be preferable to the increasing negligence of many voters. There are instances in Texas of employers who demand that every employee in their organization must purchase a poll tax, or face dismissal. Several European countries on both sides of the Iron Curtain enforce compulsory balloting.

Professional people, including architects, often plead that the heavy pressure of working schedules makes it impossible for them to vote. This is of course indefensible, and it is gratifying to note that on the other side of the coin a growing number of professional practitioners, as well as citizens from every walk of life, are joining get-out-the-vote campaigns.

Now is the time to begin work toward securing a maximum turnout at the polls next November, and in all intervening and following elections. No state or nation can afford voter lethargy which is failure to accept basic responsibility.

FHA 'Relocation Housing' Program Called 'A Flop' For New Units

FHA's four-year-old program to rehouse urban renewal displacees in cheap housing has turned up curiously mixed results, says HOUSE & HOME magazine.

For new homes, it has turned out to be "a flop" despite no-down-payment, 40-year loans which keep monthly payments as low as any government-backed mortgage program in existence.

But for used and rehabilitated homes, it is beginning to catch on fast in cities where builders and realtors are taking advantage of it.

"The dawning truth," says the home building industry business magazine, "is that existing houses make better sense for renewal displacees because they have two big advantages over new homes:

"1. Cost. In nearly every northern city, land and construction costs are too high to build good housing to sell below FHA Sec. 221's $9,000 limit ($10,000 in officially designated high cost areas). But such cities have thousands of sound older homes priced at $10,000 or less.

"2. Location. Local housing officials have found that most slum displacees, white and Negro alike, prefer to stay near their old neighborhoods—whether they rent or buy a home. Few are willing to move miles away to get a cheap new house."

Important Housing Issue

Relocation housing is becoming a more and more important housing issue as slum clearance and highway building programs gain momentum. Federal law requires cities to provide for rehousing displacees from urban renewal in decent, safe and sanitary quarters. No such requirement applies to families uprooted by highway building or local public works, but they are equally eligible for relocation housing built under FHA programs, or for public housing. Federal officials estimate the combined program will displace some 247,000 families during the next three years. FHA Sec. 221 is the chief vehicle for rehousing displacees in privately-financed quarters.

WHAT SEC. 221 HAS DONE

"As a program for existing houses," says HOUSE & HOME, "Sec. 221 was largely overlooked for the first two years of its existence. The popular concept was that Sec. 221 was only for new housing. Some district FHA directors, say relators who have struggled with the program, even refused to consider applications for existing units, thus revealing the shocking truth that they had not read the law or the regulations.

"Official figures disclose how little Sec. 221 has accomplished so far as a program to put displaced slum families into new homes. As of March 31, construction had started on only 2,304 units of the 71,332 the Housing and Home Finance Agency had certified to FHA as 'urgently needed'. And FHA commitments were outstanding for only another 5,394 units. Equally revealing is the fact that there is almost no bulge of applications above already-issued commitments."

BOON TO USED-HOUSE SALES

Now, reports HOUSE & HOME after a nationwide survey, sales of used homes under Sec. 221 are picking up. And "a few smort builders and realtors" are discovering that the program is "a neglected FHA goldmine," says the magazine. Two reasons why:

1. Used homes can be sold on the same "fabulously easy" (no-down, 40 year) terms as new houses under Sec. 221. And they are eligible (as are new units under 221) for a mortgage from Federal National Mortgage Association under its controversial special assistance program. Under special assistance, FNMA is forced by law to pay par for FHA mortgages—a price which is about 2 to 5% more than such a loan would bring on the private market.

2. If no displaced family buys the used house, it can be sold to *anybody* after it has been on the market for 60 days—provided the builder or realtor has spent 20% of the mortgage rehabilitating it. If the home has not been rehabilitated, then 221 terms can be used only if it is sold to a displacee. (A new house also can be sold to anybody if no displacee buys it within 60 days.)

"The large majority of displaced persons . . . have been buying existing houses at about $8,000 to $8,500 rather than buying new homes," says an FHA spokesman at Louisville, Ky.

In Columbus, Ohio, where one builder of new 221's has sold only six of 94 homes to displaced families, Realtor John F. Havens has sold 100 rehabilitated homes, all to displacees.

CHANGES PROPOSED

Legislation now before Congress would boost the price limits for both new and used homes sold under Sec. 221 from $9,000 to $10,000 (and from $10,000 to $12,000 in high-cost areas). "Some builders think this would help 221 in the North," HOUSE & HOME reports, "But many more think even $12,000 is too low for cities like Chicago and Cleveland with notoriously high costs."

What may be more helpful, says the magazine, is another proviso in the pending omnibus housing bill to broaden Sec. 221 provisions for rental housing. Now, rental construction under 221 is limited to nonprofit corporations —which "scares off most builders," says HOUSE & HOME, even though a builder can make a 10% building fee plus a 5% maangement fee on a rental 221 project under a nonprofit corporation. The proposed legislation would let builders put up 221 rental units with 100% FHA loans (excluding an allowance for profit and risk) subject to cost certification to prevent windfalls.

But, concludes HOUSE & HOME: "It is clear 221 needs more than higher cost limits or rejiggered arrangements for its rental program. It needs promotion by FHA."

New Publication Details Underfloor Wire Installation

"How to install SPANG Headerduct" is told in a new pocket-sized, 24-page booklet by Spang-Chalfant Division of The National Supply Company, Pittsburgh. Step-by-step, photo-illustrated instructions are given for installing this underfloor wire distribution system for power, telephone, and inter-communication systems. Illustrations include a general assembly perspective drawing and a Spang Headerduct plan drawing, both showing ducts, junction boxes, and outlets.

Representative Selection Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter, AIA

OWNER: Dr. Ralph P. Panzer, Weslaco, Texas

ARCHITECT: Alan Y. Taniguchi, TSA-AIA

CONTRACTOR: D. J. Eddleblute

INTERIORS: Jones and Jones Furnishings, McAllen, Texas

A physician's clinic in Weslaco, centrally-located and rapidly-growing Valley City which won national recognition through a community-wide remodeling project more than a decade ago, has been selected by members of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter as representative of recent architectural work in the area.

The winning building is the clinic of Dr. Ralph P. Panzer, in the border city of extreme South Texas. Architect for the project was Alan Y. Taniguchi, 716 East Boulevard, Harlingen, a member of TSA-AIA.

Regular Monthly Feature

The 14 TSA Chapters across the state select in rotation, one each month, a building or project which it is felt represents best recent architectural work in the area. The building then appears on the cover of the *TEXAS ARCHITECT* in an exterior view chosen for photographic quality. Inside an article supplied by the architect explains the specific needs of the client, any special problems such as location, site orientation, technical requirements, budgetary demands, climate, special materials, etc. An interior view of the project illustrates the project.

Readers are invited to pay particular attention to these articles, which often show buildings of unusual utility and beauty with innovations in design and materials.

One-Doctor Clinic

The Panzer Clinic was designed to serve a one-doctor general practice in a small but growing city which has many weeks of fairly intense heat and occasional heavy downpours of rainfall.

On a budget of $22,000, the architect was to provide receptionist space, a waiting room, a consultation office, four examining rooms, an isolation room, an X-ray and photographic darkroom, a laboratory, restrooms, and closet and storage space. The waiting room includes with receptionist space enough area for filing cabinets and office equipment.

Also required were an entry court, with outdoor waiting area made possible in the mild year-round climate of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and a children's play area. The entry court serves also as a view court from the waiting room.

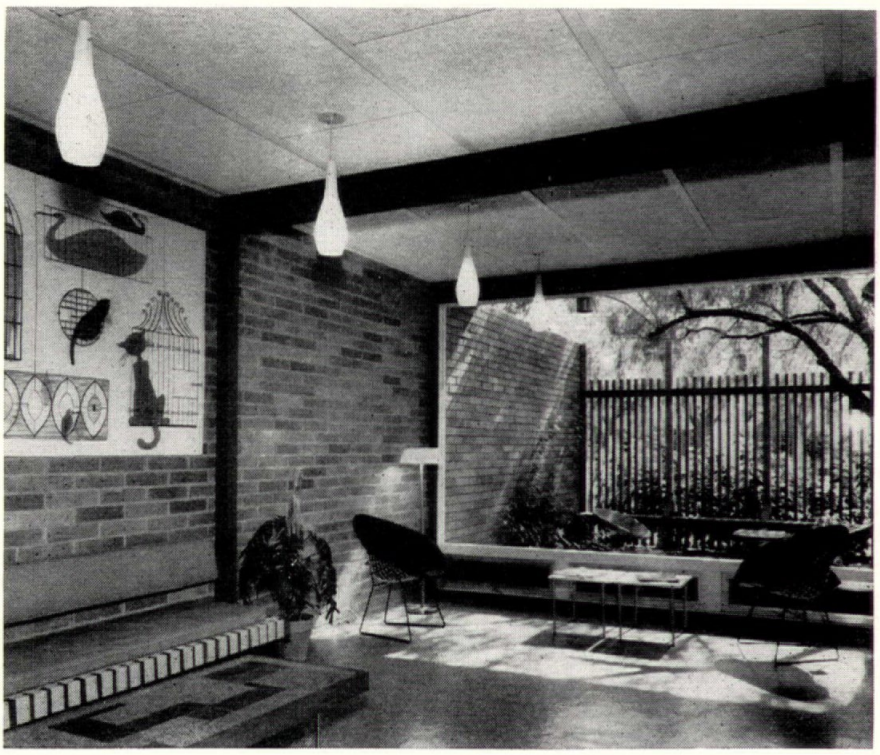
Hollow Brick Walls

To meet owner requirements for a maximum amount of space under a relatively modest budget, the architect used economical but attractive materials and construction. These included timber joist and beam with Tectum roof deck, 8-inch hollow brick unit walls with cemesto and glass, and vinyl tile floors on a concrete slab. The exterior screen walls are of vertical redwood.

The contractor for the Rio Grande Valley Clinic was D. J. Eddleblute, of La Feria. Interiors were supplied by Jones & Jones Furnishings of McAllen. The interior decoator was Jud Pullen, of McAllen.

Panhandle Selection Next

The next selection in the continuing cover series, to be shown in the October *TEXAS ARCHITECT*, will be the representative selection of the Texas Panhandle Chapter, AIA.



Weslaco Clinic Is Award Winner

The waiting room in the Panzer Clinic at Weslaco looks out on a unique outdoor waiting room and children's play area. Architect for the clinic, selected by members of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter, AIA as representative of recent architectural work in the area, was Alan Y. Taniguchi, TSA-AIA, of Harlingen.

American Standards Association Moving Toward $1000 House Saving

A significant step has been taken towards the development of uniform residential building code requirements which, if adopted by a majority of American communities, may reduce the cost of every new one- and two-family houses by $1,000 or more.

The American Standards Association is calling a general conference of all national groups that would be substantially concerned with the scope and provisions of residential building code requirements. The purpose of the conference, according to Cyril Ainsworth, deputy managing director of the association, will be to determine whether a consensus can be reached on the initiation of a project for the development of American Standard building code requirements for one- and two-family houses.

The general conference is the direct result of a request which the American Standards Association received from publisher Henry R. Luce on behalf of 14 national organizations concerned with home building.

Conflicting, Archaic Codes

"Conflicting and often archaic codes are adding at least $1,000 to the cost of the average new house built this year," Mr. Luce said. "This is a figure too dramatic and urgent to be ignored. On one million new homes, this multiplies out to over $1 billion a year of waste caused through building codes.

"Specific wastes are small compared to what could be saved if conflicting local codes were not blocking economies of nation-wide standardization and discouraging the efforts of architects and builders to develop new ways to build better for less," he added.

Mr. Luce based his statement on the findings of an industry round-table conference on home building codes held last May. According to the experts present at this conference, ten common wastes enforced by many local codes alone add more than $1,000 to the price of a house. These wastes include wiring installations more costly than necessary; over - engineered framing lumber sizes; a ban on trusses; trusses and studs spaced more closely than necessary; needlessly heavy sheathing; needlessly heavy sub-flooring; vents spaced more closely than necessary; oversized or overweight pipes; and useless housetraps on waste lines.

Many Codes Antiquated

Building code requirements are a prerogative of every local community. Thousands of different codes exist throughout the country. Many codes are based on building methods that are 20 to 50 years old.

Because of such code inadequacies, it costs, according to builders, nearly $2,000 more to build a small house in Staten Island, N.Y., than to build the same house five miles away in Middletown, N.J.

The most practical means of obtaining unified building codes throughout the country is, according to the building experts at the round-table conference, to develop nationally recognized code requirements which individual communities or state governments can adopt.

Such nationally recognized codes exist already for plumbing and electrical installations in the form of two American Standards — the National Plumbing Code and the National Electrical Code—which have been adopted by a majority of local building authorities.

14 Groups Listed

The 14 national groups on whose behalf Mr. Luce submitted the request for American Standard building code requirements are:

American Council to Improve Our Neighborhoods (ACTION), the American Institute of Architects, Building Research Advisory Board, Building Research Institute, Construction and Civic Development Department of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Home Manufacturers Association, the Lumber Dealers Research Council, the Mortgage Bankers Association of America, the National Association of Home Builders, the National Association of Mutual Savings Banks, the National Association of Real Estate Boards, the National Retail Lumber Dealers Association, the Mortgage Lending Policy Committee of the Life Insurance Association, and the United States Savings and Loan League.

The proposal submitted to the American Standards Association included the following specific requests:

1. That the American Standards Association institute the necessary procedures to develop and approve American Standard code requirements for the construction of one- and two-family residences.

2. That, in order to speed development and approval of these American Standard code requirements, the first stage of this procedure be limited to consolidating in a single American Standard the already almost identical one- and two-family house construction requirements of the Building Officials Conference of America, Southern, International, and New York State codes.

3. That the American Standards Association make these requirements applicable to three- and four-family residences as well, if that extension proves practicable.

4. That the American Standards Association set up the machinery for an annual revision of the proposed code for one- and two-family houses.

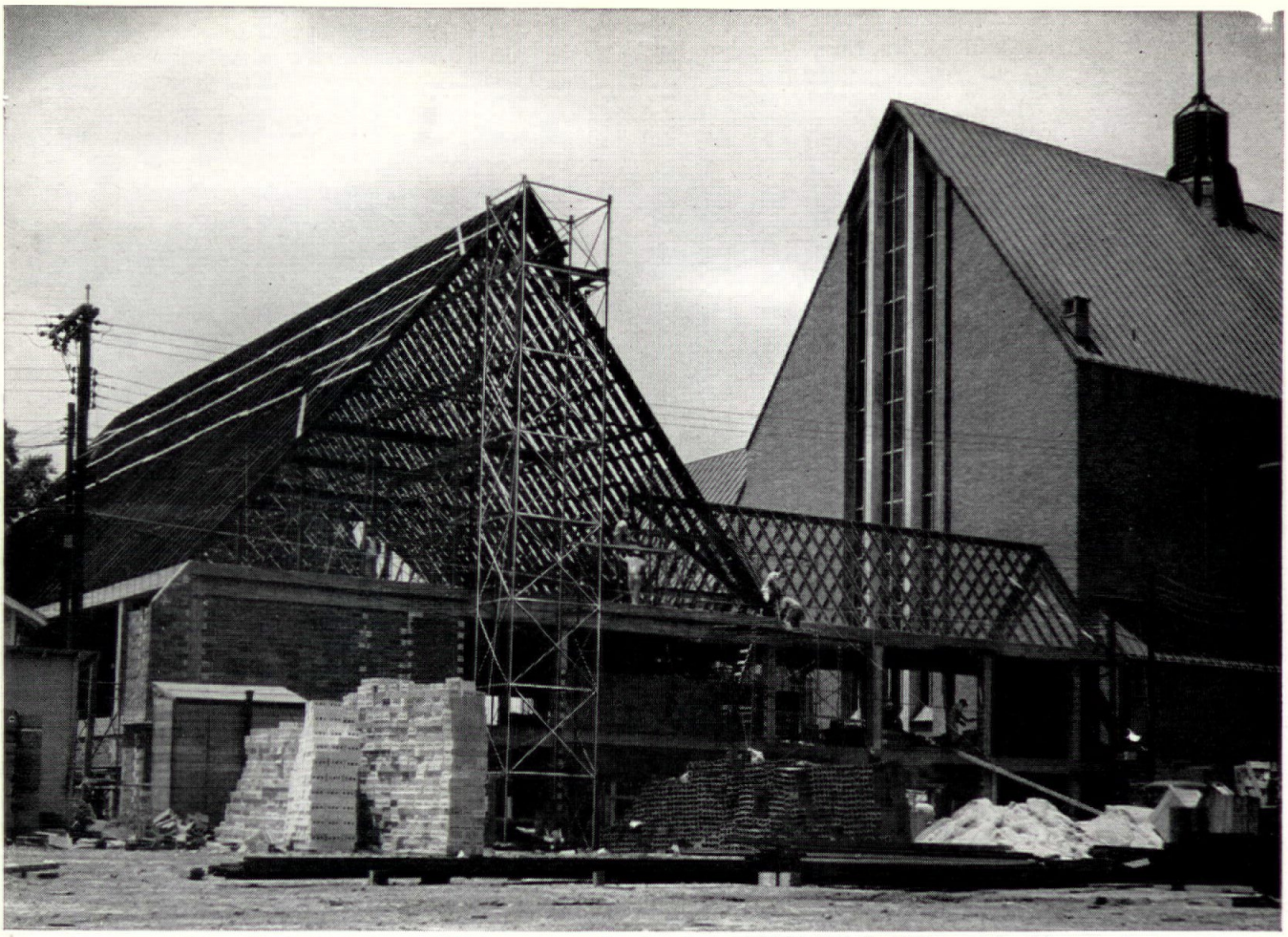
The American Standards Association is the national coordinating agency and clearinghouse for standards in the United States. It is a federation of 119 trade associations and professional societies, and it has more than 2,000 company members. The association provides systematic means for the development of voluntary standards in the United States. It approves a standard as an American Standard if all national groups substantially concerned with the provisions and scope of such standard are in agreement with the standard.

New Metal Lathing Specifications Booklet Now Available from MLMA

A complimentary 20-page booklet entitled, "Specifications for Metal Lathing and Furring," may be obtained by writing to the Metal Lath Manufacturers Association, Engineers Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

Technical points referred to in this valuable booklet include: specifications for solid and hollow partitions; wall furring; metal lath attached directly to wood supports; contact, furred, and suspended ceilings; beam and column protection for fireproofing; and reinforcing for exterior stucco.

In addition to descriptive tables summarizing the various spans and spacings for supporting metal lath and plaster ceilings, the 1958 "Specs" include a page devoted to fire-resistive ratings.



*Longview: Stran-Steel joists frame this two-story gable for the new children's building of the First Methodist Church**

HOW TEXAS ARCHITECTS UTILIZE VERSATILE STRAN-STEEL

Architects Wilson, Morris and Crain used 9″ Stran-Steel nailable joists, butt-welded, to form roof members 44′ long to frame the gable over the third and fourth floors of the new children's building of the First Methodist Church, Longview.

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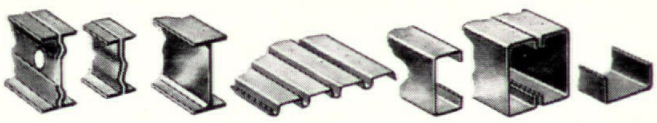

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Entries Sought for 1959 AIA Photographic Exhibit

Entries are being sought from professional photographers in Texas and across the U.S. for the third exhibition of architectural photography, being sponsored by the American Institute of Architects in the Gallery of the AIA 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C., early in 1959.

The purpose of the exhibition is to recognize and encourage outstanding work in the field of architectural photography and to demonstrate the value of this specialized branch of photography to the architectural profession. The Architectural Photographers' Association has cooperated with the Institute in developing plans for the exhibition.

More people than ever before are looking at architecture and considering the place of architecture in the community. Architectural photography provides an important means of communication between the architect and the public. The sponsors of the exhibition hope that photographers will continue to look for new ways of seeing architecture and a fresh approach to the problem of presenting the architect's design and purpose. Photographs with people and with action which show architecture in use would be welcomed in the exhibition

Rules of Submission

All professional photographers are eligible to submit work to the jury of selection. Each exhibitor may submit a maximum of three entries. The photographic prints shall be black and white, 16" x 20", double weight, non-glossy finish and unmounted. Each exhibitor should temporarily attach to the back of each print with masking tape, the following information: name and address of photographer; name and location of building shown in photograph; name and address of architect of building shown in photograph; date when photograph was taken; the only limitation as to content is that the photograph shall be of an architectural subject, but might also feature the use of other related art forms as mural painting, sculpture, fountains and other decorative features as well as landscape architecture.

No entry fee will be charged the photographer who wishes to submit his work.

All entries shall be shipped to: Mrs. Alice G. Korff, Curator of Gallery; The American Institute of Architects; 1735 New York Avenue, N.W.; Washington 6, D.C.

All entries must be received by Monday, November 10th. The exhibition is scheduled in the Gallery of the Institute early in 1959. As any print accepted for the exhibition must be in undamaged condition, it is suggested that prints be sent either in mailing tubes or between heavy sheets of corrugated paper.

All entries not selected for exhibition by the jury will be returned prepaid to the sender.

Jury of Three

A jury of three will make the selection of prints to be included in the exhibition and select the awards of merit. Consideration will be given to effective and honest presentation of subject and photographic quality. The jury will consist of two professional photographers (who shall not be eligible to exhibit) and an architect. All three judges will be chosen for their professional accomplishments and the respect which they command in their fields.

Following the selection of the exhibition and the awards of merit, the Institute will send out a publicity release. Efforts will be made to provide opportunities for broad publication of prize-winning photographs in the press and architectural and photographic magazines.

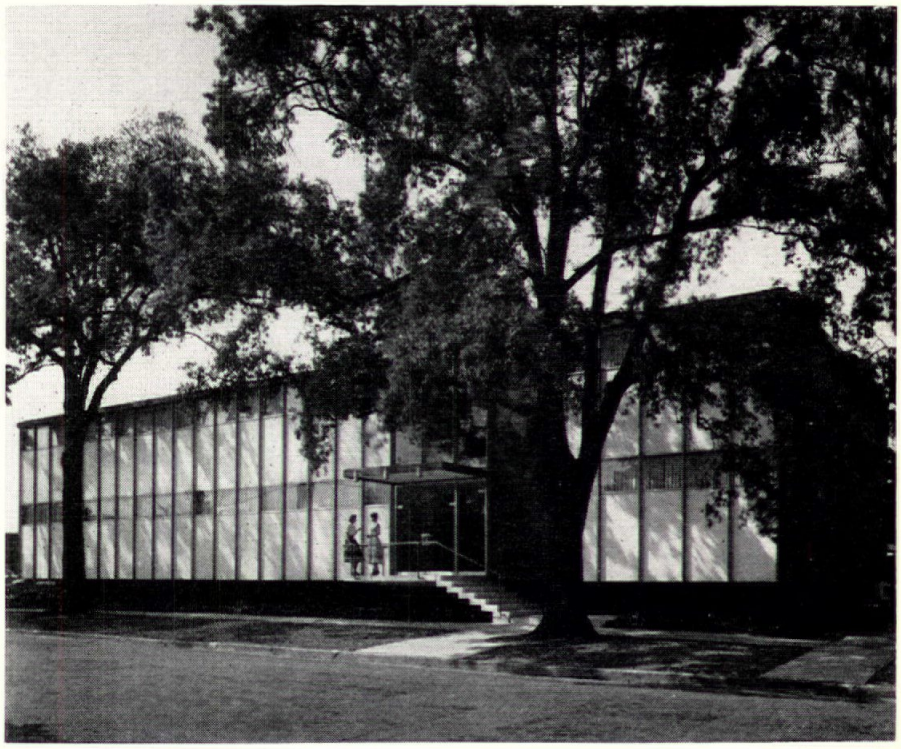
Traveling Exhibition Planned

The Traveling Exhibition Service of the Smithsonian Institution has again agreed to circulate the exhibition of Architectural Photography after its showing at The American Institute of Architects.

The photographs selected for the exhibition by the jury will be prepared as a traveling unit and mounted on panels before the first showing at the Gallery of the A.I.A.

The traveling exhibitions made from the First and Second Architectural Photography Exhibitions completed successful tours of universities, schools of architecture and museums throughout the country.

Winner in Houston Chapter Competition



The Tillman B. Trotter Building in Houston, an exterior view of which is shown above, won an award of merit in the commercial category of a recent Houston Chapter, AIA competition. The structure, recently completed, is at 402 Pierce. Architects: Neuhaus & Taylor, TSA-AIA, Houston.

Upsurge In Religious Buildings Reflects Population Growth

More people and more communities have resulted in more religious buildings being constructed today, according to the editors of *Architectural Record*.

The unprecedented challenge to today's architect is that so many of these new religious buildings will be built in new communities for new groups of people who want a contemporary expression of their faith which will stand not only as a symbol of community of faith—the ancient role of the church building—but, more significantly, as a symbol of that faith to the community at large.

Outstanding examples of new religious buildings are studied in a 28-page pictorial presentation in the current issue of *Architectural Record*. The study includes an article entitled "A Place For Worship" by architect Victor A. Lundy, AIA, Sarasota, Fla.

"The designer of the church building cannot design for himself alone or for an elite group who think as he does," Mr. Lundy states. "He must reach out to people in the realization that the building he designs is the means of conveying a message to people—not his message but God's."

All Human Beings React

Architect Lundy states that "the place of worship is the one architectural problem to which all human beings react . . . At some time every one of us has come face to face with death, has thought something about survival, has wondered about our place in the scheme of things. From this there is no escape in cynicism and snobbery. Nor does agnosticism, or even total ignorance, rule out some feeling about the place of worship."

"Because the place of worship is a place for people, its qualities, however expressed, must be fundamental, continuing, enduring—imparting not only a sense of kinship with the present but a perception of the past and a vision of the future; and always pervaded with the relationship of God and man. How well the architect understands this, how fully he interprets it, will reveal what he himself really is," declares Lundy.

Jim Antill Heads Houston Chapter of The Producers' Council

The Houston Chapter of The Producers' Council held its annual election of officers recently, electing Jim Antill of The Dunne Co. president; Bob Butler of Armstrong Cork Company, vice-president; Oscar Toelke of Koppers Company, secretary; and Faye Ellis of Acme Brick Company, treasurer.

Mr. Antill, in accepting the presidency, stated, "The Producers' Council is increasingly well-known as a national organization of building product manufacturers and associations, and the Houston Chapter is one of the largest and most active in the country. In an expanding area such as Houston, the Producers' Council plays an important part by providing architects, engineers, and other professions associated with the construction industry, with knowledge and information concerning products."

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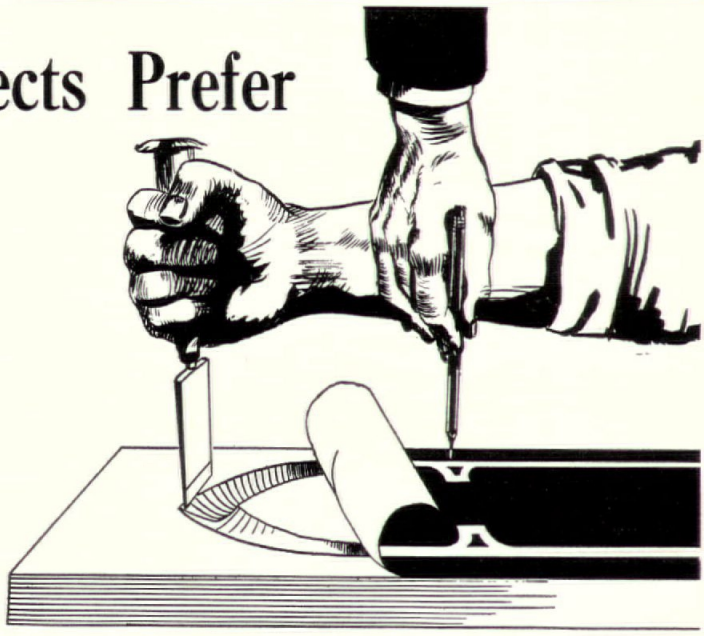

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METAL FRAMING SYSTEM PROVIDES UNUSUAL OVERHEAD DECORATION

When Albert C. Martin and Associates, AIA architects and engineers, designed the ultra-modern, $12,000,000 Eastland Shopping Center at West Covina, Calif., they envisioned some sort of unique overhead decorative structure in the center's Mall area.

Such a device, it was determined, would not have to be unusually modern and attractive for the greatest effect, but something that could be built simply and economically. There were three basic objectives to the idea:

. . . . To create a sense of intimate scale in the area by defining height.

. . . . To carry out the triangular theme of the center.

. . . . And to provide interesting shadow patterns and patches of reflected color through the use of transparent color panels.

The center was constructed by the May Company on a 55-acre tract on the north side of the San Bernardino Freeway. The center has two levels, accommodating 65 stores and shops, with the May Company's own store of four levels highlighting the horizontality of the complex design.

Martin and Associates designed the center in contemporary style, featuring the California trend in landscaping and approach. The overhead "space framing" in the Mall area had to fit with the design.

Various materials for "space frames" were considered before a design presented by the Unistrut, pioneer in the field of all-purpose metal framing systems, was accepted.

Consists of Metal Channels

Essentially, this system consists of metal channels with a continuous open slot down the center of one side, a special spring-like clamping nut, and framed fittings for attachments. The special nut contains serrated grooves which "bite into" the inturned edges of the channel for positive clamping action.

Although this system has been used in roofing structures, the Eastland project is believed to be the first instance in which it has been utilized for purposes of decoration in an overhead structure.

A total of 10,900 feet of channels, together with necessary fittings, was required for the three "space frames." The overall area covered by the frames was 8,139 square feet. Each section, measuring 2,713 square feet, spans the Mall area and is anchored above the canopy roof on both sides to the parapet walls.

Because no involved layout work, precision drilling of holes, welding, or riveting was necessary, there was a savings in construction and engineering detail work.

May Be Re-Used

The fact that the framing is re-useable and versatile means the sections can be easily disassembled, stored, ond used over again, either in the same way or for a myriad of completely new designs, if so desired.

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ADVERTISERS INDEX

Baldwin Hill 16
Flour City Ornamental Iron Co. 1
A. C. Horn ..... Cover IV
Macatee, Inc. 10, 12, 14
McKinley Co., Inc. 13
National Electrical Contractors Assn. Cover II
Studios of George L. Payne 15
Portland Cement Association 3
Prescolite Mfg. Co. 16
L. L. Sams & Sons 9
Stran-Steel Corporation 7
Texas Quarries, Inc. ..... Cover III
Unit Structures 11

Assembling Precast Concrete Building Reminiscent of "Playing With Toys"

Architect Minoru Yamasaki, AIA, says that assembling precast concrete pieces to form a building is reminiscent of playing with construction toys on the living room floor, except for the scale and the odds.

In the new Parke-Davis Warehouse-Office Building, near San Francisco, architect Yamasaki demonstrates how to support and enclose an entire building by putting together only four basic pieces. His remarks form an article "An Assembled Concrete Building" which appears in *Architectural Record*.

There is every reason to expect a trend toward the assembled concrete building, the article maintains. "With construction becoming more industrialized such a process makes sense, for it reduces on-the-job building time and exploits to the full the triple advantages of precasting: close quality control; freedom of shape; and the reduction of formwork and centering," Yamasaki reports.

Units Support Building

The Parke-Davis building, scheduled for completion early next year, will be an example of this building technique. The project was designed with three major thoughts in mind: to create an interesting silhouette against the sky; to provide an economical, fire-resisting structure to roof the required 40-ft. square bays; and to achieve a "clean interior look" appropriate to the pharmaceutical products handled, the *Architectural Record* article states. In this instance, the precast concrete units actually support as well as enclose the building.

In assembling the building, only four basic components will be used: an L-shaped column and roof-support bent; a spherical-triangular roof shell; and wall panels of two sizes. The foundation and floor slab will be poured in place while the other elements are being precast. The rigid bent pieces—which are flat and thus easy to stack and handle—will be locked together diagonally to form the pattern of 40-ft. square bays. The roof shell components —40 ft. by 20 ft. and 3 ½ in. thick — are being cast at the rate of two a day, and will be cut in half to facilitate handling, storage, and shipping.

Architects for the structure are Yamasaki, Leinweber and Associates, AIA.

U. S. Construction All-Time High Of $3.8 Billion Hit in June

Construction contracts in the United States in June totalled more than $3.8 billion, by far the highest figure ever reported for any single month, according to F. W. Dodge Corporation.

The June contracts were 12 per cent above the previous high record which had been established only a month earlier, in May, and they were 18 per cent higher than in June of last year.

The June figure was pushed upward by large increases in public utility, public works and residential contracts.

According to Dodge vice president and economist Dr. George Cline Smith, the gains were general through all types of construction, with only a few exceptions.

"When signs of an upturn in construction contracts first appeared in April," Dr. Smith stated, "we reported that the recovery seemed to have a broad, solid base. This fact has been more than confirmed in May and June, with the dollar figures exceeding all expectations.

"A number of very large utility contracts, particularly in connection with the St. Lawrence project, helped boost the June total," he said, "but the most encouraging feature was perhaps the big increase in housing activity across the nation.

Private Building Up 11%

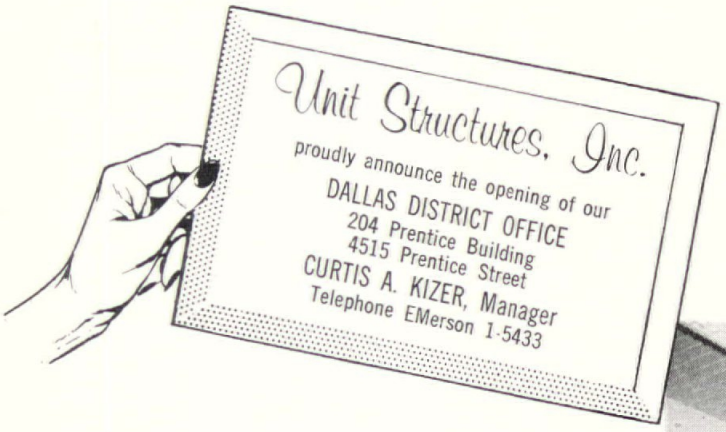
"The effect of government programs was particularly noticeable in June, since public ownership contracts were 30 per cent ahead of the same month of last year. Nevertheless, privately owned projects also rose by a substantial 11 per cent. Regardless of ownership, the net effect of this upsurge in the nation's largest industry is bound to be a big boost to the rest of the economy, which will be felt for many months to come as work proceeds on the projects now under contract."

Contracts for residential buildings in June were valued at $1,364,231,000, a gain of 20 per cent over a year ago. Contracts for large residential buildings showed the largest percentage increase—69 per cent. However, one- and two-family houses, the bulk of the residential category, also rose sharply, 17 per cent ahead of last year. The number of dwelling units represented by the June contracts totalled 107,014, up 24 per cent from June 1957.

Heavy Engineering Up 64%

Heavy engineering contracts in June amounted to $1,479,307,000, a gain of 64 per cent over the same month last year. Public works contracts were up 22 per cent and utilities contracts were 225 per cent higher than a year ago. Street and highway contracts in June rose 45 per cent above the year-earlier level. Contracts for electric light and power systems were up 479 per cent. Pipelines also registered substantial gains.

Non-residential building contracts in June amounted to $976,044,000, down 18 per cent from the same month last year. Within this category, sharp declines were registered for manufacturing buildings—down 67 per cent—and commercial buildings—down 27 per cent— while educational building contracts dropped 3 per cent below a year ago. Public buildings, religious buildings, hospitals, and recreational buildings all showed gains over the comparable year-earlier levels.



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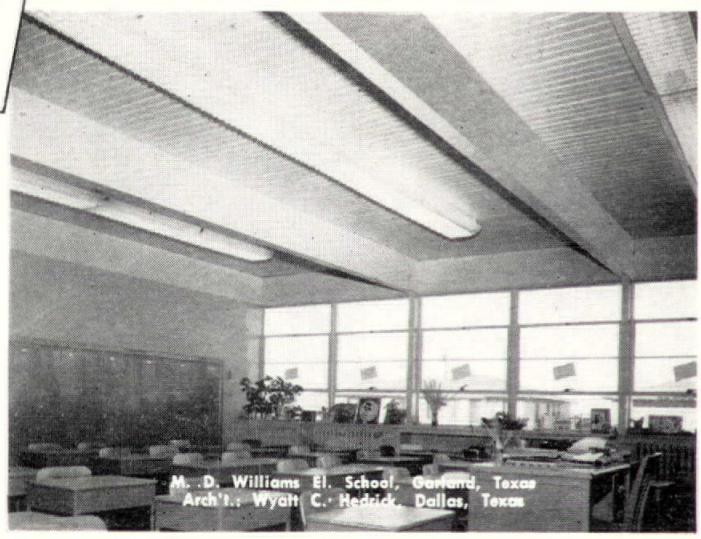

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Architectural Advisory Committee To State Building Commission Named

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Texas taxpayers have "struck it rich" in the important field of architectural planning for new state office buildings in the Capitol area.

A group of architects over the state, known officially as the Architectural Advisory Committee to the State Building Commission, is donating — as a public service — technical advice which will have a significant and lasting impact on the development of this long-range program. The architects are all members of TSA-AIA.

The nine-member committee, of which L. W. Pitts, TSA-AIA of Beaumont is chairman, already is working closely with the Building Commission and with individual architects who are designing the various buildings.

"In each case," said Mr. Pitts, "we will review the preliminary drawings as they are prepared by the various architects. These reviews will be general in nature and we will avoid discouraging the individual initiative and talent of the designing architect.

"However, the Committee will have authority to disapprove designs it considers inappropriate or inferior, subject to the final decision of the Building Commission."

Three Buildings Underway

Three buildings already are going up in the downtown Austin area just north of the Capitol. Rapid progress is being made on the Supreme Court Building, the State Office Building and a new headquarters building for the Texas Employment Commission. Presently on the drawing boards are a State Insurance Building and a new Archives and Library Building.

These and many other state government buildings which will go up in this area in future years are a part of the Building Commission's "Capitol Area Master Plan."

The Architectural Advisory Committee resulted from a meeting several months ago of the Commission, composed of Governor Price Daniel, Attorney General Will Wilson and State Board of Control Chairman E. E. McAdams.

"The Commission recognized and enthusiastically faced the fine opportunity of providing for Texas a truly great development of important state buildings," said Mr. Pitts, "with landscaping, automobile parking facilities, central services, and so forth.

"The Commission asked us to provide immediate advice on site selection and architectural appearance of buildings then in the planning stage. It also asked our Committee to help in advancing the Capitol Area Master Plan so that the future land requirements of the State may be determined

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and the public advised of these requirements."

Periodic Reviews Planned

As a result, the Advisory Committee will make periodic reviews of the State's future office space requirements in Austin. These will be translated into approximate building area requirements with related parking and general service facilities.

After each requirement survey is completed, the Building Commission will have its executive staff prepare a written program which will be discussed and reviewed with the Architectural Advisory Committee before it is issued to a private architectural firm for design.

Site selection will be carefully considered by the Commission for each structure, with special emphasis being placed on its functional relationship with other state buildings in the group, is automobile parking requirements, its general character and other important features.

The Master Plan will be publicized and clearly defined. During its advancement, careful consideration will be given to such matters as central power and refrigeration plants, central purchase of electrical power, general arrangement of the area, automobile parking and other factors which affect the efficiency and economy with which our state government is operated.

Development Began in 1954

This long-sought, orderly development of governmental buildings became a reality in 1954, when Texans adopted a Constitutional Amendment providing that surplus funds in the Confederate Veterans Pension Fund could be used for the construction of certain buildings.

The Fifty-fourth Legislature, in 1955, created the State Building Commission and authorized the construction of the State Office Building and the Supreme Court Building under the Commission's direction. Ralph R. Wolfe was named executive director of the Commission and Colonel James Jones was selected as his assistant.

In May of 1956, the Building Commission received a report from Harold F. Wise Associates containing plans for Capitol area expansion, with supporting research and planning material. This information has been studied carefully by the Architectural Advisory Committee, which is helping to advance the Master Plan.

Serving with Mr. Pitts on the committee are R. Max Brooks, TSA-FAIA of Austin, vice-chairman; Philip D. Creer, also TSA-FAIA of Austin, secretary; and Carlton W. Adams, Jr., TSA-AIA of San Antonio; George L. Dahl, TSA-FAIA of Dallas; Charles Granger, TSA-AIA of Austin; T. R. Holleman, TSA-AIA of College Station; H. E. Jessen, TSA-AIA of Austin; and Nolan Barrick, TSA-AIA of Lubbock.

Their contributions to the orderly development of state government buildings will go down in history as an outstanding public service — one that will benefit many generations of future Texans.

DuPont Plaza Selects McKinley Products!

The beautiful new DuPont Plaza Center, Miami, Florida, chose McKinley Ventilated Sun Cornices for protection against sun's glare and heat, and for attractive appearance.

Architects: Frank A. Shuflin, AIA; John E. Petersen, AIA.

For details, contact your McKinley Representative—see Sweet's Architectural File 19e/Mc.

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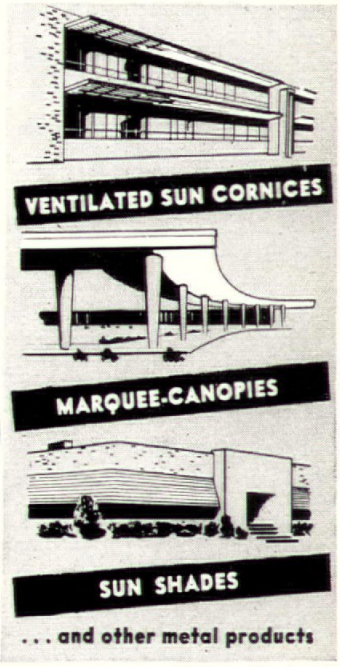

NEW PRODUCTS

A new superior filter medium for all series of ABSOLUTE Filters has been announced by Cambridge Filter Corporation, Syracuse, N. Y., pioneers in the high efficiency air filter field. This new medium, consisting of a combination of selected glass and asbestos fibers, is said to give ABSOLUTE filters important increases in filter efficiency and capacity, and in fire, temperature, and humidity resistance.

The incorporation of asbestos fibers improves temperature resistance even as compared to the all-glass media sometimes employed in the past. The use of only inorganic fibers insures the complete moisture and mildew resistance of the new filter medium. Filters to withstand 1000° F and 100% relative humidity are available.

* * * *

Development of a completely new kind of tackboard material with an exclusive foam rubber cushioning for easy tack removal has been announced by the Armstrong Cork Company.

Only one fourth as heavy as conventional tackboard, the new material, called Cushion-Eze, can be easily depressed with the finger to permit a firm grasp on the head of an inserted tack. The cushioning also eliminates the need for excessive pressure when placing tacks in the board.

Cushion-Eze Tackboard is available in three modern pastel colors: Coppertone Tan, Driftwood Grey and Mint Green. The new colors, each achieving a highly uniform appearance, were selected specifically to harmonize with today's brighter institutional and commercial interiors.

One of the more unique features of the new material is its sound absorption quality. Tests run over a range of 250 to 2000 cycles per second revealed that Cushion-Eze Tackboard possesses three times the sound absorbing efficiency of conventional tackboards. Thus, when installed on large areas, the material is of considerable acoustical significance.

The new material's unusual flexibility makes it easy to install and eliminates the possibility of its cracking or breaking even if folded double. Available in continuous rolls of 48 and 72 inch widths, Cushion-Eze Tackboard may be cemented to any solid wall or to a rigid backing, as preferred.

With its patented synthetic rubber and fiber composition, Cushion-Eze surfacing easily withstands repeated use in one spot. Local soiling can be removed with art gum or a cloth moistened with tackboard cleaner.

* * * *

New bifold door hardware with unique, modern, functional features is now being marketed to the hardware and building industries by McKinney Manufacturing Company, Pittsburgh.

McKinney's Bifold Door Hardware is designed for use with installations of louvered or other doors in closets, passageways and as room dividers. It is produced in two standard types, with orders in special sizes available on request to meet specifications of architects and building contractors.

Sets Number 1200 and 1300 are for use with four-door installations in four, five or six-feet openings. Set Number 1220 and 1320 are for two-door installations of two, two-and-a-half and three-feet openings.

Included in the McKinney Bifold Door Hardware are a length of extruded aluminum track, top and bottom pivot brackets with pivots, top guide hangers, necessary hinges, a concealed two-piece door aligner and door knobs.

Features of the modern McKinney Bifold Door Hardware are the spring loaded top pivot brackets, nylon guide hangers and the door aligner.

Nylon bushings in the spring loaded top and bottom brackets assure quiet operation. The springs in the brackets keep the doors tightly closed.

The nylon guide hangers move easily in the aluminum track. Even if the frame or track is slightly out of line, the springs compensate for the deviation and assure smooth functioning of the doors as they open and close.

The guide hangers are also weight bearing, to help support the door and maintain alignment.

The bottom two-piece door aligner is a concealed installation. In conjunction with the top pivot brackets, it keeps the doors tightly closed and in complete alignment.

All of the McKinney Bifold Door Hardware except the hinges is surface applied. Hinges are available in choice of full mortise or full surface. Floor is completely free of hardware since bottom pivot brackets are jamb mounted.

Installation is simple. Doors are easily lifted on and off.

The new bifold door hardware is supplied with all necessary screws and installation instructions provided by McKinney Manufacturing Company, Pittsburgh, Pa.

* * * *

A new idea in space dividing by use of low-cost partitions which are reusable and can be permanent or movable has been announced by the Unistrut Products Company, Chicago.

Called "ColorLine," the new system makes use of a unique metal framing which can be erected in stores, offices, homes, factories and warehouses without involved layout, drilling of holes, welding, or riveting.

George W. Butler, Unistrut president, said the new system would provide the same advantages for partitioning as have been previously available for thousands of applications of metal framing for other uses in business and industry.

The new partitioning system requires only simple tools, and stock framing parts and connections, along with standard or special panelling materials and glass. The system provides a lower installation cost and a lower relocating cost because the framing is a low-cost, standard-production material.

Any type panelling may be used, including plywood, natural wood, plastic, metal, hardboard, perforated hardboard, pressed wood, wall boards, cement asbestos, expanded metal or glass. The framing is designed to accomodate any panelling material from one-eighth to one-half inch thickness.

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THANKS, BOSTON HERALD!

The Boston Herald in a kindly gesture towards our profession published the following editorial:

"An author is allowed the luxury of displaying his name on the title page of a book; a painter usually manages to work his signature onto the design of a canvas. A composer is credited with a succession of opus numbers; but it is more difficult to emblazon one's name on a building.

Of all creative workers the architect is probably the most anonymous in contemporary society. He can, it is true, stamp his name on his work via a brass plate, which no one bothers to peruse, or cannily place it on a cornerstone out of sight. But generally the modern architect is faceless, his personality submerged in the multiple and complex operations necessary to construct a new urban monument.

How many Bostonians, for example, could name the architect of the proposed Prudential development (Hoyle, Doran & Berry of Boston; Pereira & Luckman of Los Angeles), of the gleaming IBM building on the site of the old Hotel Brunswick (Harrison & Abramowitz), of the towerlike 16-story Travelers Insurance Company building scheduled to rise near the South Station (Kahn & Jacobs). These projects are destined to alter the face of the city, to affect Boston in a thousand diverse ways along with the other planned efforts of urban renewal—but the men who will give them form and substance are largely unknown.

The grand panjandrums of contemporary architecture have received world homage. Frank Lloyd Wright, LeCorbusier, Walter Gropius attract attention wherever they turn their hand. But their genius is the exception to the rule. The architect today is known principally to a small professional clique; and to the upblic, whose life is effected, exerts far less influence than the most minor television comedian.

The plight of the modern architect is a phenomenon of the times. But surely buildings cannot be as impersonal as all that? The architect may leave the vivid air signed with his honor, yet it would be nice if we could read it without our spectacles."

—*Back Bay ARCHITECT*

Houston Residence Wins Chapter Award

The Houston residence of Bailey A. Swenson won an award of merit in the residential category of a recent Houston Chapter, AIA comeptition. Associated Architects: Bailey A. Swenson & H. Wm. Linnstaedter, TSA-AIA, Houston.

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International Exchange Plan Provides Foreign Programs

Young American architects and graduate students of architecture will have a chance to study in any of 43 foreign countries during 1959-60 under the International Educational Exchange Program of the Department of State.

Recipients of awards under the Fulbright Act for study in Europe, Latin America, and the Asia-Pacific area will receive tuition, maintenance, and travel to and from the country of their choice.

The Institute of International Education is receiving applications for these scholarships until November 1, 1958. The awards will provide approximately 1,000 opportunities for Americans to study abroad in an unlimited number of fields.

General Requirements Listed

General eligibility requirements are U.S. citizenship, a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent before departure, language ability sufficient to carry on the proposed study, and good health. A demonstrated capacity for independent study is also necessary. Preference is given to applicants under 35 years of age.

Applicants will be asked for a statement of their reasons for desiring to study abroad and for a preliminary plan of their proposed study. Successful candidates will be affiliated with educational institutions, but may not be required to follow formal course work.

Persons interested in the scholarship awards should write to the Institute of International Education, #1 East 67th Street, New York 21, or to any of the Institute's regional offices (401 Milam Building, Houston 2) for further information and application forms.

Competitions for the 1959-60 academic year close November 1, 1958. Requests for application forms must be postmarked before October 15. Completed forms must be submitted by November 1.

Midyear Review of Contracts Shows Upturn In Construction Marked

Sharp gains in heavy engineering and residential building in the second quarter almost carried the construction industry to a new record in the first half of 1958, according to F. W. Dodge Corporation.

The cumulative total of contracts for future construction in the first six months of 1958 amounted to $16,-788,625,000, only one per cent below the record level of the comparable 1957 period.

The review notes the following highlights:

The highway program gave the greatest boost to the increase in public works and the heavy engineering category.

Renewed activity in single-family houses, combined with continued demand for apartment buildings, pushed residential building one per cent above the year-earlier level.

On an ownership basis, the entire gain in contracts for future construction so far this year has resulted from high levels of public construction.

Trends established by midyear indicate that the annual totals for 1958 may well exceed the record levels of 1957.

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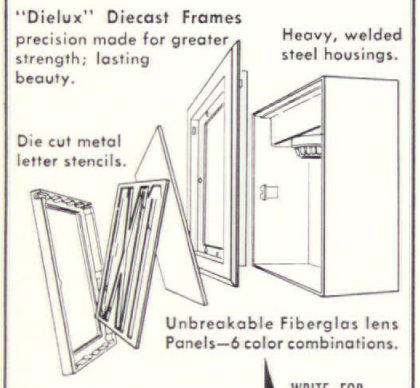

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Modular Bibliography Published

The Modular Building Standards Association has announced publication of a bibliography listing books, articles and technical papers dealing with the modular system of coordinated dimensioning for buildings and products used in their construction. This is the first such bibliography to be compiled since the American Institute of Architects undertook the task in 1950.

MBSA, whcih was formed last year, serves to promote and support the work of American Standards Association's Sectional Committee A62 for modular coordination. Membership in the group is open to manufacturers, architectural, engineering, contracting and home building firms, and individuals interested in seeing modular coordination become the accepted practice of the building industry.

The organization's president is Charleston, West Virginia architect Cyrus Silling, AIA. He also serves as chairman of the A62 Sectional Committee. MBSA's headquarters is located in the Washington, D. C. office of the Producers' Council. Free copies of the bibliography can be obtained by writing to Modular Buildings Standards Association, 2029 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

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